

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 03050 140723Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----006573 140724Z /10
O 140612Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 455

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3050

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, KS, US
SUBJ: ANOTHER VIEW OF US-ROK RELATIONS

1. YESTERDAY, I HAD LENGTHY PRIVATE CHAT WITH SENIOR KOREAN, WHO WHILE CLOSE TO GOVERNMENT, HAS IN PAST DEPLORED DIVISIVE TENDENCIES WITH RESPECT TO US-ROK RELATIONS. IMNFORMANT HAD JUST SPENT SEVERAL HOURS WITH FORMER PRIMIN KIM CHONG-P'IL, A CLOSE FRIEND, OBVIOUSLY IN PREPARATION FOR OUR MEETING.

2. INFORMANT, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF HIMSELF AND KIM, DEPLORED CURRENT EMOTIONALLY TINGED ANTI-AMERICAN CHARACTER OF DEMONSTRATIONS AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ATTACKS PROTESTING BUGGING INCIDENT. WHILE VIEWING SOME OF OUR ACTIONS, PARTICULARLY CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES, AS CONDUCIVE TO SUCH BEHAVIOR, HE FELT THAT ATTACKS ON US WERE "CHILDISH AND POTENTIALLY VERY DANGEROUS. DANGER LIES IN TWO DIRECTIONS: FIRST IN HAVING LASTING ADVERSE EFFECT ON US/ROK RELATIONS WHICH ARE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR ROK, AND SECOND IN STARTING SEQUENCE OF DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH COULD EASILY BE TURNED AGAINST GOVERNMENT.

3. INFORMANT PLACED BULK OF RESPONSIBLILTY ON SHOULDERS OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SURROUNDING PRESIDENT PARK, A VIEW I KNOW THAT IS SHARED BY KIM AS WELL AS MYSELF. HE BLAMED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 03050 140723Z

THESE OFFICIALS FOR FAILURE TO CONFRONT PRESIDENT PARK WITH HONEST PICTURE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN US AND REALISTIC APPRAISAL OF KOREA'S CONTINUED LARGE DEPENDENCE ON US. WHILE HE IS PERSONALLY SYMPATHETIC TO FONMIN PARK TONG-JIN, HE DEPORED HIS RECENT BEHAVIOR -- PARTICULARLY AFTER I SPELLED OUT MY OWN CONVERSATIONS WITH FONMIN ON BUGGING INCIDENT AND TRILATERAL TALKS. IN EFFECT, FONMIN

IS GOING ALONG WITH CROWD RATHER THAN BRACING PRESIDENT.

4. INFORMANT SAID BOTH HE AND KIM ARE MUCH CONCERNED BY DEVELOPING ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT AND URGE THAT WE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE DO WHAT WE CAN TO SMOOTH CURRENT DIFFICULTIES AND NOT PRESS TOO HARD ON AREAS LIKELY TO BE VIEWED AS INFRINGING UPON KOREAN SOVEREIGNTY, UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO OUR INTERESTS. BUT, HE RECOGNIZED INHERENTLY BULK OF PROBLEM LIES IN KOREA AND IN NEED FOR SENIOR VOICES TO GET PRESIDENT'S EAR. (COMMENT: I MIGHT ADD THAT CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD ME THAT PARK'S SON-IN-LAW, AMBASSADOR IN OTTAWA, MADE VERY SIMILAR COMMENT, EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT "HAWKS" AROUND THE PRESIDENT. HAN ALSO URGED CONCILIATORY VIEW ON KIM DONG-JO AFFAIR. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR SURMISED THAT HAN WOULD BE RETURNING THIS SUMMER IN MOVE TO COUNTER-BALANCE THESE ATTITUDES WITHIN BLUE HOUSE.)

5. COMMENT: I AM FORWARDING THESE VIEWS OF RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF KOREAN ESTABLISHMENT TO INDICATE THAT CURRENT "SILLY SEASON" DOES NOT REPRESENT TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT BY ANY MEANS. IN TERMS OF OUR FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS WITH KOREA, THIS POINT IS IMPORTANT TO BEAR IN MIND. NEVERTHELESS, THIS RECENT SURGE OF DEMONSTRATIONS, ETC., AS WELL AS THE DISTRUST APPARENT IN KOREAN ATTITUDES NOT ONLY TO THE BUGGING ALLEGATIONS BUT TO NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 03050 140723Z

KOREAN TANK PROGRAM, THE TRILATERAL PROPOSAL, YOU NAME IT, IS A FACT OF LIFE WE SHALL HAVE TO BEAR WITH IN THE SHORT TERM. GIVEN THE PRESSURES PLACED UPON US-KOREAN RELATIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR PLUS, I SUSPECT WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED BY THIS EMOTIONAL OUTPOURING AS A RESULT OF FORMER AMBASSADOR PORTER'S STATEMENT ON BUGGING.

6. I AM HOPEFUL THAT ONCE THIS EMOTIONAL OUTBURST HAS RUN ITS COURSE AND THE GOVERNMENT DECIDES THE DEMONSTRATIONS ARE INDEED A TWO-EDGED SWORD, SOME GREATER SEMBLANCE OF SANITY WILL EMERGE. BUT WE WILL STILL BE LEFT WITH THE OVERHANG OF DISTRUST AFFECTING DECISIONS IN A VARIETY OF PROBLEMS IMPORTANT TO US. BEYOND THAT, WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE FACED WITH A TIGHT CIRCLE AROUND PRESIDENT PARK PROVIDING HIM WITH HAWKISH ADVICE. THIS GROUP CAN AND HAS BEEN COUNTERED AS IN THE CASE OF THE TONGSUN PARK BUT ONLY THROUGH GETTING OTHER MORE RESPONSIBLE SENIOR KOREAN VOICES TO REACH HIM WHICH HAS BEEN MY CONTINUED TACTIC.
SNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, ANTIAMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL03050
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840157-2537
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780457/aaaabwhy.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: be4ba1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2968939
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANOTHER VIEW OF US-ROK RELATIONS
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, PINS, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/be4ba1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014